

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
February 7, 2006**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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MURRAY MAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS TEN MONTHS

- He received and distributed more than one-thousand images of child pornography –**
- Some images showed females under 12 years old performing sex with adult –**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **RONALD EUGENE WALLACE**, age 31, of Murray, Kentucky, in Calloway County, **was sentenced** in United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky, for receiving and distributing child pornography over the internet on Friday, February 3, 2006. The depictions involved minors who had not reached puberty and minors under the age of twelve engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Specifically, some of the material included video clips of minor female children under the age of twelve performing oral sex on adult males and minor female children under the age of twelve being penetrated both vaginally and anally by adult males.

Wallace had previously pleaded guilty on August 30, 2005, admitting that between August, 1998, and December, 2002, in Calloway County, Kentucky, he knowingly received approximately 721 visual depictions of child pornography that had been sent in interstate commerce, that is over the Internet via computer.

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Wallace further admitted at the change of plea hearing that between December, 1999, and December, 2002, he knowingly distributed approximately 512 digital files containing child pornography in interstate commerce, by computer over the Internet. The files contained visual depictions of minors who had not reached puberty and minors under the age of twelve engaging in sexually explicit conduct, some of which portrayed sadistic and other depictions of violence and material **Wallace** had advertised over the Internet.

The investigation began when Kentucky State Police was contacted by an internet service provider who indicated that they host web/chat sites on the internet. The provider had become aware of a pre-teen chat room that appeared to have some on-going child sexual exploitation activities, and per company policy, the chat room site was shut down. **Wallace** wrote to the internet company asking that they reconnect his computer service as, according to **Wallace**, he was “working with the FBI, US Customs Office, US Attorney Generals Office and the Kentucky State Police on internet child pornography ring task force.”

Wallace’s letter to the internet company also claimed that “we have tracked and begun prosecution of more than 500 people in the last month and are trying to broaden our net to catch these pedophiles.” The following day, Kentucky State Police officials went to **Wallace**’s home to advise him to stop impersonating a law enforcement officer as he was not affiliated with any of the groups he was claiming affiliation. **Wallace** told the State Police that he was a private investigator investigating child pornography.

Upon seeing the child pornography on **Wallace**’s computer, the Kentucky State Police seized the computer and sent it to their Electronics Crime Branch for analysis. Examination of the

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computer revealed that **Wallace** had been running a file transfer protocol server from which an individual could upload 3 images of child pornography from **Wallace**'s computer as long as he was first sent one image of child pornography. **Wallace** had made an internet advertisement for the child pornography by using his own daughter's dolls and toys. Copies of the child pornography images were sent to the Center for Missing and Exploited Children where the Center identified 25 of the children from the images as known victims of child exploitation. **Wallace** engaged in this computer child pornography activity from his home in Murray, Kentucky.

At his sentencing hearing on February 3, 2006, Wallace's defense attorney argued for a downward departure from the advisory sentencing guideline range stating that Wallace committed the crimes while suffering from a "significantly reduced mental capacity." According to testimony from Wallace's doctors, he suffered from illusions of grandeur. Based on such testimony, Wallace's defense attorney argued that he only committed the crimes because he thought he was delusional in that he believed he was part of a task force trying to catch pedophiles.

To rebut such claims, the United States introduced copies of chat log transcripts that had been retrieved from Wallace's computer by Kentucky State Police computer examiners. The chat logs indicated that during the time period in question, Wallace was not only distributing child pornography but was also engaging in "cybersex" with individuals, including a female who told Wallace she was only 15 years old. In fact, one such chat log indicated that Wallace exposed his genitals via his web camera to an individual with whom he was trading child pornography over the internet to prove, in part, to the other individual that he, Wallace was not a cop. The chat logs also indicated that Wallace traded child pornography with two boys who indicated that they were 13 and

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16 years old. In addition, a chat log was retrieved from Wallace's computer wherein Wallace told one individual with whom he had been trading child pornography that "if for some reason you can not get on the server and I stop talking to you all of a sudden, I have been caught. The FBI called here and was asking my wife questions. I may be killing the site and deleting all info." Such chat logs contradicted Wallace's claims that he was only viewing and distributing the child pornography because he thought he was part of a police task force catching pedophiles.

Judge Thomas B. Russell, United States District Court, sentenced **Wallace** to five years and ten months, plus three years supervised release following incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michele Thielhorn, and it was investigated by the Kentucky State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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